



DELL  
COMIC

NO. 637

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THE QUEST OF

# ZORRO

HIS SWORD HAD TO BE FASTER THAN A TRAITOR'S TONGUE

# THE GOVERNOR'S TROOPS



Zorro's California was part of the Spanish Empire. The Spanish governor always had many soldiers under his command to protect the peaceful farmers and quiet townspeople.

This Spanish soldier fought before the days of repeating rifles and pistols. His most dependable weapon was a cavalry sword. All cavalrymen were specially trained in sabre tactics while on horseback. It is quite different from swordplay on foot—attacks come swiftly, often from the rear, and there is much more force behind each blow because the cavalry sword is usually heavier than any weapon used by a foot soldier or duelist.



The Spanish cavalryman's helmet was equipped with thick plumes which hung down over the back of his neck. These were not a simple decoration. They were tough enough so that they could stop most sword cuts or knife slashes, yet they were flexible so that the soldier had freedom of movement.

He carried his short rifle—a flintlock carbine—in slings attached to the right side of his saddle. It was pointed downward slightly so that the trooper could fire it at a man standing on the ground without removing it from the slings. Usually, these soldiers rode into battle with their sabres in their right hands but they could use their rifles when needed with lightninglike swiftness. A trooper usually saved his single-shot rifle for a desperate emergency. It is difficult to reload a flintlock on horseback once it has been fired.



# THE QUEST OF ZORRO

IN THE CAPITOL OF ALTA, CALIFORNIA, A COACH RACES DOWN THE SUNBAKED STREETS...



CASTER, BERNARDO: HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS URGENT!

SÍ, DON DIEGO! THE PALACE IS JUST AHEAD!



THE CARPET, BERNARDO--THE STREETS ARE DUSTY!

COME, DON DIEGO!



THESE GORDOWN BOOTS GET DIRTY SO EASILY-- BUT IF I MUST SEE HIS EXCELLENCY, I MUST!

FEAR NOT, DON DIEGO! NOT A SPECK OF DIRT REMAINS IN YOUR PATH!



SHOW SEÑOR DIEGO VERDAS IN AT ONCE! THE NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR SAYS URGENTLY!

WHY SHOULD ANYONE BE IN A HURRY TO SEE THAT POPULJAY?



EXCELLENCY, YOU SENT FOR ME!

WELCOME, DON DIEGO! AND CLOSE THE DOOR! WHAT I WISH TO DISCUSS IS MOST SECRET--

AFTER MY ENTRANCE, I'M CERTAIN THE ONLY SECRETS YOUR GUARDS THINK I COULD DISCLOSE WOULD BE SOME NEW SECRET HAIR PREPARATION OR WAY TOTIE A SCARF!

YOU PLAY A CONVINCING PART! NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT THE POPPISH DON DIEGO IS REALLY JORAU! AND THAT IS WHY I CALLED YOU! I AM ABOUT TO BE REPLACED AS GOVERNOR!

YOU? BUT YOU HAVE BEEN A LOYAL AND JUST GOVERNOR THESE FIVE YEARS! EVERY RANCHER, LARGE OR SMALL, WILL ATTEST TO THAT!

YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT WANTS COME FROM THE KING! HERE, WE LIVE A CONTINENT AND AN OCEAN FROM THE THAMES! THERE, A CERTAIN COURTEER, ESTABAN DE SEVIA, HAS GAINED THE ROYAL EAR AND THE APPOINTMENT!

BUT I HAVE NOT CALLED YOU BECAUSE OF A PETTY JEALOUSY! I AM NOT IRREPLACABLE! BUT YOU LAND OWNERS HAVE BECOME MY FRIENDS, AND I HAVE TO SEE YOU FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A POWER SEEKER! DIEGO'S COMES TO USE THIS OFFICE TO ROB YOU OF YOUR LAND!

ARE YOU SURE?

I RECEIVED A WARNING FROM A FRIEND IN SPAIN! IT CAME ON THE JUANNA MARIA, WHICH DEPARTED YESTERDAY!

PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND HAS HAD SOME TRIFLING DIFFERENCE WITH DE SEVIA AND EXAGGERATES!

MY FRIEND--IN LATE FRIEND--WROTE THIS AT GREAT RISK! IT WAS ONLY A MIRACLE THAT IT GOT TO ME!

BLOOD! THE NEW GOVERNOR SEEMS TO TAKE ON AN UNPLEASANT ASPECT!

IN THREE DAYS, THE JUANNA MARIA SAILS BACK TO SPAIN! WHEN SHE RETURNS HERE, SHE WILL BEAR THE NEW GOVERNOR! IF WE HOPE TO STOP THE LAND GRANT RONGER FROM STEALING YOUR HAND-ROUNDEDIES, WE MUST STOP HIM--IN SPAIN!

YOUR LATE FRIEND'S WARNINGS COST TOO MUCH NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY! I SHALL SAIL ON THE ANNA MARIA! THEY SAY SEALAR IS GOOD FOR THE COMPLEXION! PERHAPS A SEA VOYAGE CAN CHANGE THE COMPLEXION OF THINGS!



LATER, AT CASA CONCHITA...  
NO, PANCHITA, THEY JUST DO NOT MAKE LACE IN THE NEW WORLD AS THEY DO IN MADRID!

DRESS! THAT'S MY WEDDING TROUSSEAU!



I WAS AFRAID THESE INFERIOR GOODS WERE PART OF YOUR TROUSSEAU! NONE OF THE MATERIAL CAN STAND THE SLIGHTEST STRAIN!

STOP!



MADMAN, ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN MY FAMILY FINANCIALLY--RIPPING UP YOUR FINANCER'S TROUSSEAU?

ON THE CONTRARY, VINCENTE! I AM TRYING TO KEEP YOUR SISTER'S TROUSSEAU FROM RUINING ME FINANCIALLY! ONCE WE WERE MARRIED A MONTH, I SHOULD ONLY HAVE TO REPLACE THOSE INFERIOR GARMENTS!



DO YOU THINK I WILL BRING INTO OUR HOUSEHOLD, GARMENTS SOMEONE HAS WORN IN ALTA CALIFORNIA? NO! I WILL SAIL FOR SPAIN IN TWO DAYS TO BUY MY TROUSSEAU! BUT, OF COURSE, IF PANCHITA'S TROUSSEAU--

WE WILL BE ON THE SHIP TO BUY PANCHITA'S WEDDING TROUSSEAU IN SPAIN, TOO!



TWO DAYS LATER, AT THE END OF THE KEYS, DON ALBERTO LOOKS SADLY ABOUT...

IT IS QUIET AND LONELY WITH DRESS OFF ON A SHIP FOR SPAIN--BUT HE MUST SAIL FOR A GOOD REASON! HE HAS TAKEN WITH HIM THE SWORD OF ZORRO!



AND AS THE MAN-OF-WAR ANNA MARIA  
CATCHES THE WIND IN HER BELLOWING  
SAILS, THE LONG JOURNEY TO SPAIN BEGINS...

**M**ANY DAYS LATER, AS THEY NEAR THEIR DESTINATION...

DIEGO, IS THERE SOMEONE  
IN THAT CABIN? THE CURTAINS  
ARE ALMOST ALWAYS DRAWN...  
THE DOOR NEVER OPENS--

IT OPENS THREE  
TIMES A DAY,  
PINCHITA, WHEN  
A SERVANT BRINGS  
FOOD TO WHOEVER  
OUR MYSTERIOUS  
COMPANION IS!

**L**ATER...

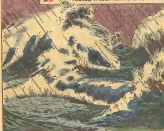
AND I THOUGHT  
MY SISTER HAD THE  
LARGEST MIRROR  
ON SO. NO!

A BIG  
MOUNTAIN, A  
BIG MIRROR!  
JUST TRIMMING  
IT--WE ARE  
NEARING SPAIN,  
VICENTE!

FIRST, I SAW A LIST OF THE GRATES  
OF ALTA CALIFORNIA--AND NOW A  
NOTE ABOUT MY VISIT TO THE  
GOVERNOR!

I HAD HOPED TROUSSEAU  
BUYING WITH MY FIANCÉE WOULD  
PROVIDE COVER FOR THIS TRIP,  
BUT IT SEEMS THAT SOME-  
ONE SPYS ON ME!

DAY FROM PORT, THE SHIP IS SUDDENLY  
TOSSED WILDLY IN A RAGING SEA...



THE MOST COMPLETE LIST OF THE ESTATES  
AND THEIR SIZES IN ALTA CALIFORNIA... BUT  
WHO WAS SENT TO COMPILE IT AND THOUGHT  
MY VISIT TO THE GOVERNOR WORTH NOTING?  
PERHAPS I CAN GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO  
SHOW WHETHER HE'S FRIEND OR FOE!



SEÑOR VEGAS IS THE GOVERNOR'S FRIEND  
AND THEREFORE, MY MASTER'S ENEMY! WITH  
NO ONE ON DECK TO WITNESS THE DEED, I  
HAVE A PERFECT CHANCE TO  
EARN A PURSE OF GOLD  
FROM DE SEAS!



WHEN THE SHIP  
ROLLS THE OTHER  
WAY, JUST A LIGHT  
PUSH—



NOW!





A CLOSE CALL! IT IS SO EASY  
TO LOSE ONE'S FOOTING IN  
THIS STORM! MOST FORTUNATE  
I WAS STANDING HERE!

¡SÍ, SEÑOR! A  
THOUSAND THANKS!  
I WAS SETTING  
DOWN IN MY CABIN  
AND CAME OUT FOR A  
BREATH OF AIR!



WHAT A SHAME WE  
MEET SO LATE IN OUR  
VOYAGE... WE DOCK  
TOMORROW!

¡SÍ, AND WE WILL  
PROBABLY NOT  
MEET AGAIN... SPAIN  
IS SO LARGE!



**T**HE NEXT DAY, THE SHIP SETS ANCHOR AT CADIZ...

THE COACH IS READY, DON  
DIEGO! OUR BAGGAGE WILL  
FOLLOW US TO MADRID!

BUT I SHALL TRY TO  
FOLLOW MY DEARLY SHIP-  
MATE AND LEARN HOW  
SENT HIM TO ALTA  
CALIFORNIA!







THE ANNA MARIA SAILS IN FOUR DAYS AND I WILL BE ON IT WITH THE KING'S SEAL ON MY APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR! I GO TO COURT TO GET THE DOCUMENT NOW! IF THIS PREENING PEACOCK, VEGAS, TRIES TO STOP ME, I WILL NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I REACH ALTA CALIFORNIA TO DO AWAY WITH ONE OF THE LAND OWNERS!



LATER THAT DAY, THE THREE VISITORS ARE PRESENTED AT COURT...

SEÑOR AND SEÑORITA CONCHOLA AND SEÑOR VEGAS!



IT IS NOT OFTEN OUR COURTES FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN VISIT US! TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS PLEASURE?

TO THE SUPERIOR CRAFTSMANSHIP OF SPAIN, YOUR MAJESTY! WE ARE TO BE WED AND BOTH SEÑORITA CONCHOLA AND I CAME HERE TO PURCHASE OUR TROUSERS!



BUT I ALSO BEAR A PETITION FROM THE LAND OWNERS OF ALTA CALIFORNIA CONCERNING THE GOVERNORSHIP--

HE WASTES NO TIME! WELL, MY BEST COURSE IS TO CUT HIM SHORT!



YOUR MAJESTY, I, TOO, HAVE A PETITION ABOUT THE GOVERNORSHIP--AN ORDER WHICH YOU HAVE PROMISED TO SIGN!

ONE PETITION TO THE THRONE ALWAYS SEEMS TO LEAD TO ANOTHER! BUT FIRST, THE THRONE HAS A PETITION TO ASK OF ITS NOBLES! THEN IT WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS!



FOR A YEAR NOW OUR RULE HAS BEEN PARALYZED BY PETTY REBELLIONS! AT LAST, THE REBEL NOBLES ARE CORNERED—BUT IN AN IMPENETRABLE FORTRESS, CASTILLO DIABLO! CANNON CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE CASTLE—IT MUST BE STORMED! BUT WHO WILL LEAD THE TROOPS?



YOUR MAJESTY, WE HERE HAVE FAILED TO TAKE CASTILLO DIABLO! A STRANGER, SUCH AS SENOR VEGAS, MAY BE THE PERFECT LEADER!



FROM THE "E" I CARVED ON THAT MAN'S HAND, I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED HIS MASTER TO VOLUNTEER ME!

IN THE NEW WORLD, WE ARE USED TO HIGH MOUNTAINS AND DANGEROUS TASKS! PERMIT ME, YOUR MAJESTY, TO LEAD THE ATTACK!



BOOY...

OF ALL THE RASH ACTS I DID YOU HAD ME COME TO SPAIN TO BE FITTED FOR MY WEDDING TROUSSEAU OR MOURNING CLOTHES?

TUT! TUT! PAMETA, REACH! YOU EXAGGERATE THIS TRIFLING MILITARY AFFAIR!



ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MYSELF—ESTEBAN DE SENG! YOU AND YOUR PARTY WILL HONOR ME BY COMING TO MY HOME TONIGHT! I SHALL DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERTAKING, SENOR VEGAS!

SPLENDID! THIS AFTERNOON WE GO TO THE MARKET AND DISCUSS DRESS STYLES! TONIGHT, STRATEGY!



LATER.

DE SENG SAID IF I CAN SLAY HIM HERE, THERE WILL BE ONE LESS FOR DINNER TONIGHT! WHILE HIS HANDS ARE BURN, IT SHOULD BE EASY!



Continued

PANCHITA, THIS IS FINE MATERIAL! LOOK AT THE SHEEN, THE DELICATE HIGHLIGHTS AND SHADOWS!

SPEAKING OF SHADOWS--

LET ME UNROLL A BIT MORE OF THIS BOLT--



A THOUSAND PARDONS, SORRY! I DID NOT SEE YOU THERE!

YOU DROPPED YOUR GARDEN! ALLOW ME!

**E**XCUSING HIMSELF QUICKLY FROM PANCHITA, DODGIE DEPARTS, AND MINUTES LATER...

THE CASTLE NEAR WHICH I WAS ASSAULTED EARLIER--OBVIOUSLY AN ENEMY'S LAIR!



OUT AS ZORRO MEETS THE CASTLE, A COACH RACES OUT AND A RIDER REMAINS BY IT...



"YOU WILL HAVE ALL YOUR GUESTS FOR DINNER, DE SEVAS!"

"HE WILL NOT ESCAPE ME FOR LONG! BUT I HAVE NO TIME TO STOP NOW... I AM EXPECTED AT A MEETING!"

IT MUST BE AN URGENT CALL, DE SEVAS THINKS OR HE WOULD NOT RUSH OFF BEFORE HIS GUESTS ARRIVE! WELL, IF I STAY WITH MY HOST, I CANNOT BE LATE!



"DO NOT WORRY! YOUR MASTER WILL FIND A FAITHFUL SERGANT STILL MOUNTED BEHIND AND WEAR NO HIS HOUSE'S LIVERY!"



ALTA CALIFORNIA...

THEN SPAIN!

THAT IS THE COUNTERSWAMP. LET HIM PASS!

A MOST AMBITIOUS PASSWORD! NOW MY PROBLEM IS TO MAKE CERTAIN I KNOW THE COUNTERSWAMP TO GET OUT OF HERE!



THE HORSE I RODE-IT  
HAS FOLLOWED ME!



WHOSE HORSE  
IS THIS?



I DO NOT  
RECOGNIZE  
THIS STALLION!  
WHERE CAN HIS  
OWNER BE?

I AM HIS OWNER AND I WILL  
RELIEVE YOU OF HIS CHARGE!



OW!!

I MUST DRESS FOR A BANQUET,  
SERGENT! FORGIVE ME IF I DO NOT  
WASTE TIME TRYING TO BLESS  
THE PARTING PASSWORD!



STOP!  
YEAH!

**T**HAT NIGHT, AFTER FEASTING AT CASA DE BEBENS...

WHILE THE OTHERS RETURN TO THEIR LODGINGS  
IN THE CARRIAGE, LET ME RIDE BY YOUR SIDE, SEÑOR  
VEGAS, AND FINISH AN DESCRIPTION OF THE  
APPROACHES TO CASTILLO DUBAR!



SI! THAT SHOULD  
SHUTEN WHAT MIGHT  
OTHERWISE BE A DULL  
RIDE HOME!



AH! WHAT A MAGNIFICENT  
Wool Cape! I HAVE NEVER  
FELT SUCH WARM MATERIAL!

BE-HEE, IT IS COMFORTABLE  
ON A CHILLY NIGHT, THOUGH  
TODAY, ONE HARDY  
NEEDS A CAPE!

OUR CLIMATE  
AT HOME MUST  
BE WARMER,  
FOR I FIND  
THE EVENING  
CHILLING!

I WILL SEND  
MY SERVANT  
TO FETCH YOU  
A CAPE!

NO! DO NOT TOUCH! YOUR SERVANT! YOU ARE KARM,  
THEREFORE MAY BE BOTHERED WITH A CAPE! AND IT IS  
NOT WISE! CHILL ALONG THAT PROMPTS ME TO WANT  
TO WEAR THIS HANDSOME CAPE! ALAS--I AM VAIN AND  
I KNOW YOU WILL HUMOR MY DESIRE  
TO SEE MYSELF CLOAKED IN YELLOW!

B-BUT, SEÑOR,  
THIS CAPE IS A  
FAVORITE AND--

SO MUCH THE BETTER!  
YOU ARE A GRACIOUS HOST  
TO ALLOW ME TO WEAR  
IT HOME! A THOUSAND  
THANKS!

TRUST OBED TO  
WASTE TIME OVER  
CLOTHES!

AND NOW, KEEP NEAR  
ME AND TELL ME HOW  
YOU THINK I MAY BEST  
LEAD THE STORMING OF  
CASTILLO DIABLO, FOR WE  
MAY NOT HAVE A CHANCE  
TO TALK AGAIN!

Now...

THERE! YOU CAN SEE THE SEAMS! YELLOW  
CAPE! CLEARLY NOW! AM CAREFULLY AT  
THE RIDER NEXT TO HIM!

HERE IS THE PLACE SET FOR THE  
AMBUSH! IF I REAR MY HORSE, ALWAYS  
I CAN THROW OFF THEIR AIM!

BANG

ASSASSINS FROM  
UP THERE! WE CAN  
NOT CATCH THEM,  
BUT PERHAPS  
THIS WILL  
SCARE THEM  
OFF!

A CLOSE CALL! I AM CERTAIN  
YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD  
BE ATTACKED HERE,  
SERGE SEVRS!

BUT HOW SELFISH OF ME TO  
KEEP TALKING WHILE YOU ARE  
STILL TREMBLING FROM THIS  
UNEXPECTED AMBUSH!! HERE,  
SERGE, LET THIS CAPE SAVE  
YOU FROM THE CHILLS! I  
DO NOT NEED IT  
NOW!

THANKS!

DOH...

I RETURNED DE SEVRS'S CAPE TO HIM, BUT  
I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS PIECE OF  
PARCHMENT, BEHOLD, THAT I FOUND IN ITS  
POCKET! "THE BEARER IS AUTHORIZED TO DO  
WHAT HE COMMANDS TO BE DONE!" AND IT IS  
STAMPED BY THE KING'S SEAL! WELL, I SHALL  
TRY TO FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN  
IT TO DE SEVRS!



ARE YOU GOING TO HIRE OR A RENOV IN THAT RIDICULOUS-OUT-FIT, DIESSO?



AH, VICENTE, YOU SO BORDELY LACK A SENSE OF FASHIONABLE TASTE! WERE I NOT FORCED TO EXAMINE THE APPROACHES TO CASTILLO DIEBLO TODAY, I SHOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU TO JUDGE NAUGHTY IN PURCHASING HER TROUSERS!



'TO CASTILLO DIEBLO' BUT RIDE WELL IN FRONT BERNARDO, SO YOU CAN PICK THE LEAST RUDDY AREA!



IS THAT THE PEACOCK THE KING SENDS TO LEAD THE ATTACK?

PERHAPS IT'S A TRICK! THE CASTLE'S DEFENDERS WILL BE SO BUSY LAUGHING AT HIM THEY MAY FORGET TO FIRE AT US!



THIS PASS FROM THE KING PERMITS ME TO GO THROUGH YOUR LINES! I WISH TO ED. MAKE THIS SO-CALLED IMPERFECT CASTLE MORE CLOSELY!

KEEP RIDING FORWARD, GORROR! THE CASTLE IS ALWAYS ABOVE YOU!



THEY SEE US AND WE ARE WITHIN RANGE!

RIDE TO COVER THEN, BERNARDO! I SHOULD HATE TO HAVE A BULLET TEAR MY OUTFIT! REVIEWING TAKES SO LONG AND IT NEVER IS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY!

NO WONDER IT IS CALLED  
CASTELLO DIMON! THE DEVIL  
HIMSELF WOULD HAVE TO  
FLY TO GET UP THERE!



"YOU HAVE FOUND A WAY TO  
STORM THE CASTLE AND RACE  
DOWN TO TELL US, SEÑOR?"

"NO, I HAD ORDERED  
LUNCH AT THE INN BE-  
LOW ON THE WAY UP  
AND FEAR MY EGGS  
WILL BE OVER-  
COOKED!"



...DON AT THE INN...

"THESE FALCON  
EGGS LOOK LIKE  
THEY'VE BEEN HERE  
FOR YEARS! I HOPE  
MY EGGS ARE  
FRESHER!"

"ASSUREDLY, SEÑOR!  
THESE EGGS ARE BUT  
A TROPHY OF A YOUTH-  
FUL ADVENTURE..."



"...WHEN I WAS BUT TWELVE,  
I CLIMBED THE HILL AND  
PLUCKED THOSE EGGS FROM  
THE FALCON'S AEGIS AT THE  
BASE OF THE CASTLE'S CLIFF-  
SIDE WALLS!"

"NO! I CANNOT BELIEVE  
ANYONE COULD CLIMB UP  
THE SOUTH SIDE OF THAT  
MOUNTAIN!"



"IT CAN BE DONE, SEÑOR! IT WAS A  
DIFFICULT CLIMB,  
BUT I REACHED  
THE NEST AT THE  
BASE OF THE FORT  
THAT WAY!"

"AND IF A TWELVE-YEAR-  
OLD BOY COULD DO IT, IT  
SHOULD NOT PROVE TOO  
GREAT A CHALLENGE  
FOR YOU, NO?"



IF I COULD GAIN THE CASTLE FROM THE CURF-  
SIDE, I COULD OPEN THE PRISON AND LET THE  
TROOPS IN! THE ROSE WOULD BE MINE! BUT  
IF I GO FIRST AND GET CAPTURED—NO, I  
JUST SEND SOMEONE ELSE UP FIRST  
WITH A GOOD MISLEADING STORY IN CASE  
HE IS CAPTURED! THEN THEY WILL NOT  
EXPECT A SECOND CALLER.  
WHEN I FOLLOW HIM UP!



THE NEXT DAY...

ARE YOU SURE  
YOU CANNOT COME  
SHOPPING WITH ME  
TODAY, DIEGO?

NO, PANCHITA! MILITARY NOT  
MARTIAL AFFAIRS TAKE MY TIME  
TODAY! BUT I DO NOT WANT YOUR  
BROTHER'S POOR TASTE GUIDING  
YOUR PURCHASES!



I HAVE LEARNED OF  
A MOST EXCELLENT  
LOCKSMAN!  
BERNARDO WILL  
TAKE YOU TO THE  
PLACE! ADIOS!



LATER...

THIS PRIS BEARS  
THE KING'S SEAL...  
THOUGH I NOW ADVISE  
YOU TO TURN BACK,  
SENORITA, YOU MAY  
GO ON!

BERNARDO  
ARE YOU SURE  
DIEGO SENT YOU  
HERE?



SO THE CASTLE ABOVE IS  
THE ADDRESS HE GAVE ME!  
BUT DO NOT WORRY—HE SAID  
IF HE FOUND YOU WERE DELAYED,  
HE WOULD COME AND GET YOU!





THE KING'S TROOPS LET THE COACH THROUGH! MAYBE IT BEARS A ROYAL MESSENGER, AND THE KING WILL GRANT US NEARLY AS TERMS! BATHER THAN TRY TO STORM THIS CASTLE! OPEN THE GATE!

YES, EXCELLENCY!



IS THERE A FAMOUS LACE-MAKER HERE, SERVO?

THERE WAS-BEFORE I TOOK UP MY HEADQUARTERS HERE-AND THE KING SURROUNDED CASTILLO DIEGO!



THIS IS CASTILLO DIEGO? BUT HOW COULD DIEGO VEGAS BE SUCH A FOOL AS TO SEND ME HERE?

DO YOU KNOW VEGAS, SENORITA? IN THAT CASE, I CANNOT REDIRECT YOU TO THE LACE-MAKER! HEARD YOU STAY?



SINCE THE LACE-MAKER HAS GONE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO STAY HERE!

I UNDERSTAND! THIS FASHIONABLE POP VEGAS! SENDING YOU ON THIS "RANCH-SENT" SHOPPING TRIP WAS A CLEVER ATTEMPT TO HAVE A SPY APPRAISE OUR DEFENSES! BUT YOU HAVE NOT FOOLED THE DUKE CALORADO! A WISEST TRICK!



WHAT EVENING...

DIEGO, WHERE IS RANCHITA? IT IS LATE AND SHE IS STILL NOT BACK!

PERHAPS SHE CANNOT MAKE UP HER MIND AT THE LACE-MAKER'S! YOU KNOW HOW WOMEN FORGET TIME WHEN THEY SHOP AND SHE IS SHOPPING AT CASTILLO DIEGO!



CASTILLO DIEGO! YOU SENT HER UP THERE-TO THAT REBEL STRONGHOLD?

CONFOUND IT, MINEWITE, YOU ARE RIGHT! FOR-HE-HE I HAD KNOWN IT AS THE RESIDENCE OF A FAMOUS LACE-MAKER, BUT I FORGOT WHAT IT WAS TODAY! I THOUGHT I MUST ADMIT, WHEN I SENT HER OFF, I THOUGHT THE NAME SOUNDED FAMILIAR!



OF ALL THE STUPID BUNJERS!

PEACE, VINCENTE! YELLING AT ME WILL NOT RELEASE PANCHITA! BERNARDO IS WITH HER AND HE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER! TOMORROW, WE WILL PARLEY WITH THE CASTLE'S DEFENDERS!



THE NEXT MORNING...

LET ME CARRY THE WHITE FLAG—IT WOULD CLASH WITH YOUR OUTFIT!



PANCHITA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, VINCENTE! THEY HAVE GIVEN ME PRIVATE QUARTERS AND ALLOWED BERNARDO TO SERVE ME, BUT THEY WILL NOT LET ME OUT!



ON THE HONOR OF A NOBLEMAN, I CHARGE YOU RELEASE MY FIANCÉE AT ONCE!

AFTER SHE HAS SPED OUT OUR DEBTS FOR YOU! NOW THE SEÑORITA STAYS—UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'LL FREE HER!



A RHE RIX YOU HAVE GOTTEN PANCHITA IN! HOW EVER, WILL WE RESCUE HER?

NOW THAT YOU SPEAK OF "WE" RESCUING HER, THERE IS HOPE! YOU CAN SCALE THE CLIFFSIDE AND BREAK INTO THE CASTLE EASILY!

THE CASTLE, VINCENTE!



SCALE THAT CLIFF? ARE YOU MAD, DIEGO?

A CHILD COULD DO IT! IN FACT, AS A CHILD, THE HOST AT THE INN CLIMBED TO THE CASTLE ON THAT CLIFF!



THEN START CLIMBING, DIEGO! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PRINCESS BEING HELD PRISONER UP THERE!

I HAVE WITNESSED SUCH A LACK OF BROTHERLY AFFECTION! SHE IS YOUR SISTER! THE HONOR TO CLIMB FIRST BELONGS NATURALLY TO HER NEAREST OF KIN!



ALL RIGHT! BUT YOU WILL CLIMB WITH ME!

BECAUSE YOU IS A MORE CORRECT WAY OF SAYING IT!



THAT NIGHT, THE TWO STEALTHILY SLIP UP THE STEEP FACE OF THE TOWERING CLIFF.



VINCENTE—(BRAGGART)—I HAVE COME AS FAR AS I CAN!

I SUPPOSE I WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE ALONE! WITH YOU BRAGGING HEAVILY BY ME, THE GUARDS WILL SOONLY HEAR US!

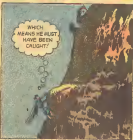


IF I SUCCEEDED IN GAINING THE CASTLE, AND GETTING PRINCHITA OUT, BE READY DOWN HERE TO HELP HER DESCEND!

SI? AND VINCENTE—I HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED THE TROOPS TO CRAWL CLOSE TO THE CASTLE IN CASE YOU HAVE A SPARE MOMENT AND CAN OPEN THE GATE!







A GUARD—BUT FORTUNATELY HE  
IS NOT ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ME!



HE SHOULD  
SOFTEN MY  
FALL!



AH, WHAT  
FORTITUDE—NOT  
EVEN A MURMUR  
OF SURPRISE OR  
PAIN!



THE GATE  
IS CLEAR!



THIS CASTLE IS  
TOO CAUTIOUSLY  
KEPT!



IF THEY DO NOT SEE ME,  
THEY STILL MAY STUMBLE OVER  
THE FALLEN GUARD!







FIVE AGAIN! ONE! AT LAST, THE ODDS ARE ALMOST RIGHT FOR ZORRO, BUT NOW THE KING'S TROOP JOIN THE BATTLE!

TAKE THE REBELS!



THEIR LEADER HAS SET THE STYLE! THEY SHALL ALL CRY MERCY QUICKLY!



YEAH!

OHH!



IF THEY ARE IN THE SITE, WE CANNOT ESCAPE THEM!

THE CASTLE WILL BE TAKEN IN MINUTES— THEN IT WILL BE TIME FOR DIEGO VERAS TO ARRIVE TO "LEAD" HIS TROOPS TO VICTORY!



OOH...

THERE IS YOUR PRECIOUS DIEGO, RANCHITA! NOW HE COMES!

NATURALLY, VINCENTE! A LEADER'S PLACE IS BEHIND HIS MEN TO MAKE SURE NONE FAULTS OR TURN BACK ON THE CHARGE!



ANSWER ME, DIEGO! DIDN'T YOU KNOW THIS LADYMAKER'S "HOME" WAS THE REBEL STRONGHOLD WHEN YOU SENT ME HERE?

SURPRISE IT TO SAY, RANCHITA, KNOWING YOU WERE HERE LED US TO SUCCESSFULLY STORM THIS CASTLE!

SENOR, HERE IS A LIST OF ALL THE TRAITOROUS NOBLES WHO PLOTTED WITH THE DUKE CALORCO AGAINST HIS MAJESTY! THE DUKE WROTE PERFECTLY AT SENOR'S POINT!

AS A FAVOR TO HIM FOR HIS "COOPERATION" AL, HE GAVE HE HAS A PRIVATE CALL-UPART FROM THE OTHER "PEASLS"!

LATER AT THE ROYAL PALACE...

THE LIST HAS BEEN CHECKED! ALL ARE IN CUSTODY SAVE DE SENOR! BUT NO MATTER, HE WILL NOT LONG ELUDE US! NOW SENOR VEGAS, TELL THE KING YOUR PETITION!

FOR MYSELF - I ASK NOTHING! FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALTA CALIFORNIA FROM WHENCE WE SAILED, I ASK THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNOR RETAIN HIS POSITION!

I SHOULD HARDLY CONSIDER APPOINTING DE SENOR TO REPLACE HIM NOW! I WILL GIVE YOU A LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO REAFFIRM HIS POSITION! THIS WAY TO MY STUDY! MY SECRETARY IS THERE!

MY SECRETARY...

...STABBED!

AS THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN IS SENT FOR, DEEDS VEGAS  
LIFTS THE SEAL.

IT WAS USED, YOUR MAJESTY,  
AND BUT MOMENTS AGO! THE  
WAX ON IT IS STILL WARM!

HIT SEALED AN ORDER--  
HAVING DE SEVAS ALTA  
CALIFORNIA'S  
GOVERNOR?

WITH THE OFFICIAL SEAL  
ON THAT APPOINTMENT, HE  
CAN SET HIMSELF UP  
LEGALLY AS MY AGENT!

ONLY IF HE REACHES  
ALTA CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE WE DO,  
YOUR MAJESTY!

THE WAY YOU ARE HURRYING  
US ALONG, DESSO, ONE WOULD  
IMAGINE WE WERE ABOUT TO  
BE ARRESTED!

AND WE SHALL BE--  
IF DE SEVAS REACHES  
ALTA CALIFORNIA BEFORE  
US-- BERNARDO,  
THE COACH!

LATER, AT CARP...

TOO LATE! DEEDS  
SAILED IN A FIFTY-SIX HOURS AGO! WE MUST STOP  
HIM AT SEA!



IT IS A LONG TRIP  
DREGO! WE WILL HAVE  
A CHANCE TO CATCH  
UP TO HIM!

IF NOT, WE MAY  
EXPECT TO BE ARRESTED  
BY THE NEW GOVERNOR  
THE MOMENT WE  
SET FOOT  
ONSHORE AT HOME!



SEÑOR VESPA! HIS MAJESTY  
SENT ME AFTER YOU! I AM TO  
TELL YOU THAT A SHIP SHALL  
FOLLOW THIS, BEARING AS A  
ROYAL PRESENT A WEDDING  
TROUSSEAU FOR YOU AND  
YOUR BRIDE!

WELL, DREGO, THE  
TRIP WAS NOT A WASTE  
AFTER ALL!



IT WILL BE  
UNLESS THE CAPTAIN SAILS  
AT ONCE!

SH! HUSH!  
ANCHOR!



ACROSS THE MISTY COAST, THE  
SHIP SAILS IN VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME...



WE REACH  
PORT TOMORROW.  
DREGO! OUR CHANCES  
ARE FAIRER!

SH! I HAVE  
SCANNED THE WATERS  
UNTIL MY EYE WEARIES  
BUT STILL NO SAIL!



THE NEXT MORNING, AS A LANDFALL IS MADE, SUDDENLY...



SAUL, HO! A SLOOP, TWO POINTS OFF THE PORT!



DE SEWIS'S SHIP! IN THE NAME OF THE KING—FIRE UPON HIM!

RUN OUT THE GUNS!



I HAD BETTER GET BELOW BEFORE SUN POWDER GONAWAY DE-BARKATION CLOTHES!



IS THE FIRST SAILD THUNDER / CROSS THE WATERS OF THE PACIFIC...

THE CHAIN DOOR IS LOCKED! DEBOWEGAS IS INSIDE!

THEN EL ZORRO CAN GO TOPSIDE!



OWW!

THE CAPTAIN HAS FALLEN! IF THE CREW PANICS WITH THEIR LEADER DOWN, DE SEWIS WILL REACH PORT SAFELY AND "OFFICIALLY" ORDER THE WARSHIP GUNS TO BLAST US FROM THE SEA!

QUICKLY! TO THE STARBOARD!  
THEN WE WILL TAKE THE WIND FROM  
THE SMALLER SLOOP'S SAIL!



WH- WHO  
ARE YOU?

WHEN YOU REACH SHORE, ASK WHO  
EL ZORRO IS! BUT NOW-- TO  
THE STARBOARD!



WELL DONE! HER SAILS FLAP IDLY!  
SHE CANNOT BE TURNED! NOW BRING US  
AROUND SO ALL OUR STAR-  
BOARD GUNS BEAR!



DO NOT BOTHER TO  
RELOAD! BOARD HER!



**COMING SOON!**

*another authentic tale of the old west*

**ZANE GREY'S**

# TO THE LAST MAN

**A DELL COMIC**

**10¢ AT ALL GOOD COMIC DEALERS**



**DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS**

THE BLACK-GARRED  
ONE MY SERGANTS  
SPOKE OF!

AT YOUR SERVICE, SEÑOR! AND  
WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR THE  
SERGANTS, I SHALL DO EVEN  
BETTER FOR THE MASTER!

AND AS THE CREW OF THE ANNAMUN! SCROOPS  
DOWN ON WARCHAGE-STEAMY DECKS OF THE SLOOT?

TWO RAPIERS FLASH...



THIS TO ALL TRAITORS: WHOSE AMBITION  
SEEMS TO ROB THE RIGHTFUL LAND OWNERS  
OF THEIR ESTATES AND THREATENS TO  
TOPPLE JUST KINGS FROM THRONES—THE  
SIGN OF JUSTICE: THE MARK OF ZORRO!



AS THE SLOOPS' CREW GREY SURROUNDERS, DE SENAS IS TURNED OVER TO  
THE WOUNDED CAPTAIN OF THE ANNA MARIA.

"THE BEARER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO DO WHAT HE CONSIDERS  
TO BE DUE!" AND IT BEARS  
THE ROYAL SEAL!

"H-HOW  
DID YOU  
GET THAT  
ORDER?"

"YOU SHALL  
HAVE PLENTY OF  
TIME TO TRY TO  
ANSWER THAT  
YOURSELF—IN  
JAIL!"



**M**OMENTS LATER...

"YOU CAN COME OUT  
NOW, DIEGO! BLORDHO!  
CAPTURED DE SENAS  
FOR YOU AND THEN  
WALKED OVER THE  
STERN OF THE SHIP!"

"IN A MOMENT,  
VINCENTE! I WANT TO  
SPRAY MYSELF WITH  
SCENT SO I SHANT  
RECK OF GUNPOWDER!"



**D**ON...

"DON DIEGO! WHEN  
I HEARD CANNON FIRE,  
I SALLOPED TO THE  
HARBOR! I NEVER  
EXPECTED TO FIND  
YOUR SHIP IN A  
SEA FIGHT!"

"THE BATTLE  
IS OVER! VICTORY IS  
OURS! DE SENAS IS  
EXPOSED AND WILL  
NEVER EVEN SET  
FOOT HERE!"



"WHY ARE YOU STARRING AT  
THE SHIP, PANCHITA? HOPING  
TO SEE EL ZORRO?"

"NO VINCENTE! LOOKING  
TOWARD THE SEA FOR THE  
KING'S SHIP BEARING MY  
ROYAL TROUSSEAU!"

"NATURALLY! WHY  
SHOULD SHE WAIT  
EL ZORRO—WHEN  
SHE HAS ME?"

